



# Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission

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## Superfund Sites:

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(Registry: 03/07/2003)

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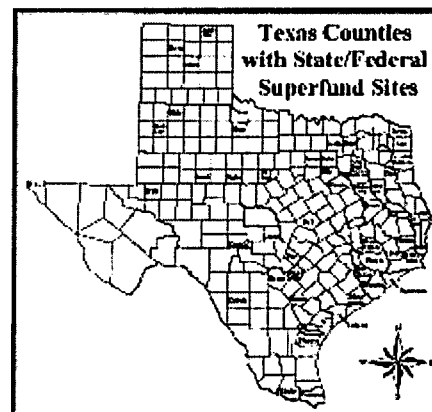
## Contracting Support Program

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## EPA: Gulfco Marine Maintenance

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EPA I D:	TXD055144539
Location	Freeport, Brazoria County <a href="#">Map</a>
Latitude	28°58'01"N
Longitude	95°17'23"W
Hazard Ranking Score	N/A
Contaminants At Time Of HRS	Semivolatile Organic Compounds, Lead, Zinc, Pesticides
EPA Region	Texas - 6
TCEQ Region	Houston - 12
Legislative District	Texas Senate - 17   Texas House - 25 U.S. Congress - 22

157727



## Site Description

### Location:

- The Gulfco Marine Maintenance, Inc., facility is located approximately three miles northeast of the city of Freeport in Brazoria County. The site lies within the 100-year coastal flood plain along the north bank of the Intracoastal Waterway between Oyster Creek to the east and the

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#### Population:

Old Brazos River channel and the Dow barge canal to the west. The southern part of the Gulfco site drains to the south where it enters the Intracoastal Waterway.

- The population of the city of Freeport is approximately 12,800.

#### Setting:

- The Gulfco Marine Maintenance, Inc., facility is approximately 40 acres in size. It operated as a barge cleaning and waste disposal facility from 1971 to 1979. The site encompasses three buried/backfilled surface impoundments that received contaminated wash water from the barge cleaning operations, areas of contaminated soil, and releases to surface water and ground water.

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#### Wastes and Volumes

Source piles,  
groundwater, soil

- While a site screening inspection sampling event was conducted by the Texas natural Resource Conservation Commission in January 2000, and a subsequent expended site inspection was conducted in January 2001, the exact volumes of wastes discovered at the site have yet to be determined. This information will be obtained during the remedial investigation and feasibility study which is planned for a later date.

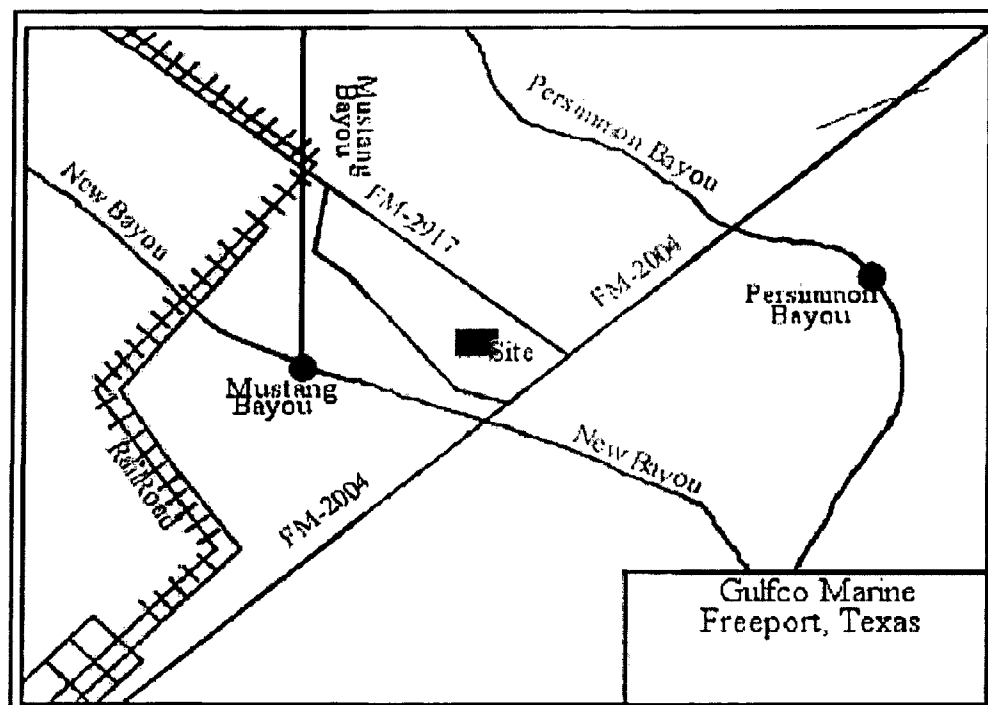
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#### Site Assessment and Ranking

<p><b>NPL LISTING HISTORY</b> <b>Proposed Date: September 2, 2002</b></p>
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#### Site Map and Diagram



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## The Remediation Process

### Site History:

- The Gulfco Marine Maintenance facility operated as a barge cleaning and waste disposal facility from 1971 through 1979.
- Operations at the facility involved the cleaning, servicing, and repair of various types of barges, particularly chemical. Chemical barges were drained and pumped to remove product heels, which were then stored in tanks and sold as product.
- Each barge was washed with water or a detergent solution. Generated wash waters were stored either in surface impoundments, a floating barge, or on-site storage tanks. The barges were allowed to air dry and certified as safe prior to initiating repair work, such as welding and sandblasting.
- The surface water migration pathways extend in all directions within contiguous surface water bodies since these surface water bodies are influenced by the tides. Surface water flows eastward into Drum Bay, Christmas Bay, and Galveston Bay. A wetland area is located approximately 500

feet south of the site across the Intercoastal Waterway. Twenty miles of wetland frontage lie within 15 stream miles of the site.

### **Human Health and Ecological Risk Assessment:**

- A human health and ecological risk assessment is an integral part of the remedial investigation and feasibility study.
- A human health risk assessment estimates the current and possible future risks if no actions were taken to clean up a site. The EPA's Superfund risk assessors determine how threatening a hazard is to human health and the environment. They seek to determine a safe level for each potentially dangerous contaminant present, for example, a level at which ill health effects are unlikely and the probability of cancer is very small. Living near a Superfund site doesn't automatically place a person at risk. It depends on the chemicals present and the ways people are exposed to them.
- An ecological risk assessment is defined as a process that evaluates the likelihood that adverse ecological effects are occurring or may occur as a result of exposure to one or more stressors. A stressor is any physical, chemical, or biological entity that can induce an adverse ecological response. Adverse responses can range from sublethal chronic effects in individual organisms to a loss of ecosystems functions. Only chemical or physical stressors are subject to risk management decisions at Superfund sites.
- Human health and ecological risk assessments are performed during the remedial investigation and feasibility study.

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## Record of Decision

- The final remedy (cleanup alternative) for a site is published in a record of decision. The record of decision is the official documentation of how the EPA considered the remedial alternatives and why the EPA selected the final remedy.
- Before a record of decision can be finalized, the EPA must provide a proposed plan for public review and comment. This plan summarizes the remedial alternatives presented in the analysis of the remedial investigation and feasibility study, and identifies the preferred alternative, the rationale for that preferred alternative, and documents that support the EPA's decision.
- The general public will be notified when the proposed plan is open for public review and comment.

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## Community Involvement

- Community involvement is the name the EPA uses to identify its process for engaging in dialogue and collaboration with communities affected by Superfund sites. The mission of the Superfund community involvement program is to advocate and strengthen early and meaningful community participation during the EPA's remedial activities at a site. The EPA's community involvement program is founded on the belief that people have a right to know what the EPA is doing in their community and to have a say in it. The purpose is to give people the opportunity to become involved in the EPA's activities and to help shape the decisions that are made at a site.

### Community Involvement Plan

- The community involvement plan specifies the community involvement activities that the EPA expects to undertake during the

remedial activities planned for the site. A community involvement plan, based on community interviews and other relevant information about the site, will be prepared during the early phases of the remedial investigation and feasibility study.

**Public meetings**

- Public meetings will be scheduled during the early phases of the remedial investigation and feasibility study.

**Fact sheets**

- Fact sheets will be prepared as necessary during the planning and implementations of the remedial investigation and feasibility study. These fact sheets will be filed at the site's repository and distributed to people on the mailing list.

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**Technical Assistance Grant****Availability notice**

- September 26, 1998

**Letters of Intent received**

- N/A

**Final Applications Received**

- N/A

**Grant Award**

- N/A
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**Contacts at EPA****EPA Remedial project manager**

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**Community  
involvement  
coordinator**

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**Enforcement**

- The Superfund enforcement program seeks to maximize the involvement of potentially responsible parties in the cleanup of Superfund sites. Statutes provide the EPA with the authority to order potentially responsible parties to investigate and clean up sites, negotiate settlements with potentially responsible parties to fund and/or perform site cleanups, and commence legal action if the potentially responsible parties do not perform and/or pay for cleanup. A primary goal of the enforcement program is to obtain consensual settlement, or, if necessary, compel potentially responsible parties to implement site cleanups. The primary tool used to achieve this goal is the administrative order on consent. When EPA takes response or enforcement action at a site, the enforcement program's goal is to recover the costs of those actions from the potentially responsible parties. Once a potentially responsible party has agreed to take response action at a site, the goal of the enforcement program is to ensure that the studies or cleanup activities are performed correctly and in accordance with the administrative order of consent and relevant EPA guidance.

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**Present Status and Issues**

- The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is currently in the process of completing the process of gathering evidence in order to determine /establish the existence of potentially responsible parties.

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### **Benefits of Action**

- The Gulfco Marine Maintenance cleanup ensures elimination, treatment, and/or prevention of contaminants that contribute to unacceptable health risks for current and future industrial workers, area residents, and ecological animals due to exposure of contaminated media at the site.

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### **Emergency & Hot Line Phone Numbers**

**Texas Superfund Hot Line 1-800-633-9363  
For Texas Superfund Information**

**EPA Superfund Hot Line 1-800-533-3508  
For EPA Region 6 (NM, LA, OK, AR, TX)**

**Spill Reporting 1-800-832-8224  
Texas Spill Reporting Hot Line**

**EPA Region 6 Environmental Emergencies 1-866-372-7745**

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